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REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 30, 2005 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment have been made as a consequence thereof.

Claims 1-29 are now pending in this application. Claims 18-29 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-17 stand rejected.

The specification has been amended to correct clerical errors. Specifically, paragraph 19 has been amended to correct the reference number of the tub side wall from "64" to -68--, and paragraph 21 has been amended to add reference number 70 for the basket. In paragraph 36 the basket reference number is corrected from "170" to -70--. Paragraph 45 is amended to correct grammatical errors. The amendments add no new matter.

The rejection of Claims 7 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention is respectfully traversed.

Claim 7 has been amended to indicate dependency from Claim 1. Claim 13 has been amended correcting clerical errors, replacing "d time" with -of time--. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 112 rejection of Claims 7 and 13 be withdrawn.

The rejection of claim 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 11, 14, 15, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Van Newenhizen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,199,127) is respectfully traversed.

Van Newenhizen et al. describe a washing machine (20) having a cabinet (25) with a lid (26). The washer includes a tub (34) and a spin basket (35) defining a wash chamber. The washer also includes a mixing tank (80). The mixing tank communicates at a top end with the wash tub and at a lower end with a pump (38), a drain line (82), and a recirculation line conduit

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(84). The tank communicates with the drain line through a port (130) and a conduit (132), and via a three-way mixing valve (170), a three-way drain valve (166), and a drain (134). The drain valve is controlled to allow recirculating fluid flow back into the mixing tank during portions of wash and rinse cycles. During rinse cycles, fresh water is taken into the washer and then recirculated for a number of spray rinse cycles. During the recirculation, rinse water that drains into the tub is pumped back and reused for further rinsing before being discharged to the drain.

Claim 1 recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable basket within the wash tub, the rotatable basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and a water spraying device, the method including "rotating the basket at a first rate of rotation; spraying a predetermined quantity of fresh water into the basket while the basket is rotating at the first rate; continuously draining the sprayed water from the wash tub after the sprayed water moves through the clothes during said spraying a predetermined quantity of fresh water, so that none of the sprayed water is recirculated; and rotating the basket at a second rate of rotation, the second rate of rotation greater than the first rate of rotation".

Van Newenhizen et al. do not describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, Van Newenhizen et al. do not describe or suggest spraying a predetermined quantity of fresh water into the basket while the basket is rotating at the first rate, and continuously draining the sprayed water from the wash tub after the sprayed water moves through the clothes during the spraying step, so that none of the sprayed water is recirculated. Rather, Van Newenhizen et al. describe rinse cycles wherein fresh water is introduced into the washer at the start of the rinse cycle and then recirculated and reused during recirculation loops in the rinse cycle. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Van Newenhizen et al.

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Claims 2, 4, and 5 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2, 4, and 5 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2, 4, and 5 likewise are patentable over Van Newenhizen et al.

Claim 10 recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable basket within the wash tub, the rotatable basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and the rotatable basket drivingly engaged to a multi-speed drive system, and a spraying device, the method including "driving the basket at a low speed; spraying fresh water into the basket; continuously draining the sprayed water from the wash tub after the sprayed water moves through the clothes during said spraying fresh water, so that none of the sprayed water is recirculated; terminating spraying into the basket; and driving the basket at a high speed."

Van Newenhizen et al. do not describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 10. More specifically, Van Newenhizen et al. do not describe or suggest spraying fresh water into the basket and continuously draining the sprayed water from the wash tub after the sprayed water moves through the clothes during the spraying fresh water step, so that none of the sprayed water is recirculated. Rather, Van Newenhizen et al. describe rinse cycles wherein fresh water is introduced into the washer at the start of the rinse cycle and then recirculated and reused during recirculation loops in the rinse cycle. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 10 is submitted to be patentable over Van Newenhizen et al.

Claims 11 and 14 depend from independent Claim 10. When the recitations of Claims 11 and 14 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 10, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 11 and 14 likewise are patentable over Van Newenhizen et al.

Claim 15 recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable clothes basket within the wash tub, the rotatable

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clothes basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and the rotatable clothes basket drivingly engaged to a multi-speed drive system, a spraying device, and a drain assembly, the method including "rotating the basket at a low speed with the drive system; spraying fresh water into the basket with the spraying device; saturating clothes in the basket; continuing to spray fresh water into the basket after the clothes are saturated until a predetermined quantity of water has been sprayed; continuously draining the sprayed water from the wash tub after the sprayed water moves through the clothes during said spraying, said saturating, and said continuing to spray steps, so that none of the sprayed water is recirculated; terminating spraying into the basket; and rotating the basket at a high speed with the drive system".

Van Newenhizen et al. do not describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 15. More specifically, Van Newenhizen et al. do not describe or suggest spraying fresh water into the basket, saturating the clothes, continuing to spray fresh water into the basket after the clothes are saturated, and continuously draining the sprayed water from the wash tub after the sprayed water moves through the clothes during the spraying, the saturating, and the continuing to spray steps, so that none of the sprayed water is recirculated. Rather, Van Newenhizen et al. describe rinse cycles wherein fresh water is introduced into the washer at the start of the rinse cycle and then recirculated and reused during recirculation loops in the rinse cycle. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 15 is submitted to be patentable over Van Newenhizen et al.

Claim 17 depends from independent Claim 15. When the recitations of Claim 17 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 15, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 17 likewise is patentable over Van Newenhizen et al.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the §102 rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 11, 14, 15, and 17 be withdrawn.

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The rejection of claim 1, 2, 4, 10, 11, 14, 15, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Hardaway et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,199,127) is respectfully traversed.

Hardaway et al. describe a horizontal axis washing machine (20) having a cabinet (25) with a door (26). The washer includes a tub (34) and a spin basket (35) defining a wash chamber. The washer also includes a mixing tank (80). The mixing tank communicates at a top end with the wash tub and at a lower end with a pump (38), a drain line (82), and a recirculation line conduit (84). The tank communicates with the drain line through a three-way mixing valve (170) and a three drain valve (166). The drain valve is controlled to allow recirculating fluid flow back into the mixing tank during portions of wash and rinse cycles. During rinse cycles, fresh water is taken into the washer and then reused in recirculation loops before being discharged to the drain.

Claim 1 recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable basket within the wash tub, the rotatable basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and a water spraying device, the method including "rotating the basket at a first rate of rotation; spraying a predetermined quantity of fresh water into the basket while the basket is rotating at the first rate; continuously draining the sprayed water from the wash tub after the sprayed water moves through the clothes during said spraying a predetermined quantity of fresh water, so that none of the sprayed water is recirculated; and rotating the basket at a second rate of rotation, the second rate of rotation greater than the first rate of rotation".

Hardaway et al. do not describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, Hardaway et al. do not describe or suggest spraying a predetermined quantity of water into the basket while the basket is rotating at the first rate, and continuously draining the sprayed water from the wash tub after the sprayed water moves through the clothes during the spraying step, so that none of the sprayed water is recirculated. Rather, Hardaway et al. describe

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rinse cycles wherein fresh water is introduced into the washer at the start of the rinse cycle and then recirculated and reused during recirculation loops in the rinse cycle. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Hardaway et al.

Claims 2 and 4 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2 and 4 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2 and 4 likewise are patentable over Hardaway et al.

Claim 10 recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable basket within the wash tub, the rotatable basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and the rotatable basket drivingly engaged to a multi-speed drive system, and a spraying device, the method including "driving the basket at a low speed; spraying fresh water into the basket; continuously draining the sprayed water from the wash tub after the sprayed water moves through the clothes during said spraying fresh water, so that none of the sprayed water is recirculated; terminating spraying into the basket; and driving the basket at a high speed."

Hardaway et al. do not describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 10. More specifically, Hardaway et al. do not describe or suggest spraying fresh water into the basket and continuously draining the sprayed water from the wash tub after the sprayed water moves through the clothes during the spraying fresh water step, so that none of the sprayed water is recirculated. Rather, Hardaway et al. describe rinse cycles wherein fresh water is introduced into the washer at the start of the rinse cycle and then recirculated and reused during recirculation loops in the rinse cycle. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 10 is submitted to be patentable over Hardaway et al.

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Claims 11 and 14 depend from independent Claim 10. When the recitations of Claims 11 and 14 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 10, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 11 and 14 likewise are patentable over Hardaway et al.

Claim 15 recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable clothes basket within the wash tub, the rotatable clothes basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and the rotatable clothes basket drivingly engaged to a multi-speed drive system, a spraying device, and a drain assembly, the method including "rotating the basket at a low speed with the drive system; spraying fresh water into the basket with the spraying device; saturating clothes in the basket; continuing to spray fresh water into the basket after the clothes are saturated until a predetermined quantity of water has been sprayed; continuously draining the sprayed water from the wash tub after the sprayed water moves through the clothes during said spraying, said saturating, and said continuing to spray steps, so that none of the sprayed water is recirculated; terminating spraying into the basket; and rotating the basket at a high speed with the drive system".

Hardaway et al. do not describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 15. More specifically, Hardaway et al. do not describe or suggest spraying fresh water into the basket, saturating the clothes, continuing to spray fresh water into the basket after the clothes are saturated, and continuously draining the sprayed water from the wash tub after the sprayed water moves through the clothes during the spraying, the saturating, and the continuing to spray steps, so that none of the sprayed water is recirculated. Rather, Hardaway et al. describe rinse cycles wherein fresh water is introduced into the washer at the start of the rinse cycle and then recirculated and reused during recirculation loops in the rinse cycle. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 15 is submitted to be patentable over Hardaway et al.

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Claim 17 depends from independent Claim 15. When the recitations of Claim 17 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 15, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 17 likewise is patentable over Hardaway et al.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the §102 rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 10, 11, 14, 15, and 17 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 6, 7, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Newenhizen et al. or Hardaway et al. is respectfully traversed.

Van Newenhizen et al. and Hardaway et al. are described above.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Section 103 rejection of the presently pending claims is not a proper rejection. Obviousness cannot be established by merely suggesting that it would have been an obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Van Newenhizen or Hardaway to arrive at the claimed invention. More specifically, as is well established, obviousness cannot be established by modifying the teachings of the cited art to produce the claimed invention, absent some teaching, suggestion, or incentive supporting the modification. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that it would not be obvious to one skilled in the art to modify Van Newenhizen or Hardaway because there is no motivation to do so.

To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. In re *Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). In the present case, neither Van Newenhizen nor Hardaway describe or suggest a rinse cycle wherein only fresh water is introduced into the washer and onto the clothes load during the rinse and wherein the sprayed water is continuously drained from the wash tub after moving through the clothes with no recirculation of the sprayed water. Rather, both Van Newenhizen

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and Hardaway both describe rinse cycles that utilize rinse water recirculation to minimize water usage.

Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art teaches away from the present invention. Both Van Newenhizen and Hardaway teach washing machines that include a mixing tank along with plumbing, valves, sensors, and other hardware necessary to support recirculation cycles. By contrast, the present invention avoids the cost and complexity associated with the recirculation hardware described in Van Newenhizen and Hardaway. Thus, nothing in Van Newenhizen or Hardaway can be said to teach or suggest the present invention.

Claims 6 and 7 depend from Claim 1 which recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable basket within the wash tub, the rotatable basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and a water spraying device, the method including "rotating the basket at a first rate of rotation; spraying a predetermined quantity of fresh water into the basket while the basket is rotating at the first rate; continuously draining the sprayed water from the wash tub after the sprayed water moves through the clothes during said spraying a predetermined quantity of fresh water, so that none of the sprayed water is recirculated; and rotating the basket at a second rate of rotation, the second rate of rotation greater than the first rate of rotation".

Neither Van Newenhizen et al. nor Hardaway et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, neither Van Newenhizen et al. nor Hardaway et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest spraying a predetermined quantity of fresh water into the basket while the basket is rotating at the first rate, and continuously draining the sprayed water from the wash tub after the sprayed water moves through the clothes during the spraying step, so that none of the sprayed water is recirculated. Rather, both Van Newenhizen et al. and Hardaway et al. describe rinse cycles wherein fresh

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water is introduced into the washer at the start of the rinse cycle and then recirculated and reused during recirculation loops in the rinse cycle. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. or Hardaway et al.

Claims 6 and 7 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 6 and 7 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 6 and 7 likewise are patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. or Hardaway et al.

Claim 13 depends from Claim 10 which recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable basket within the wash tub, the rotatable basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and the rotatable basket drivingly engaged to a multi-speed drive system, and a spraying device, the method including "driving the basket at a low speed; spraying fresh water into the basket; continuously draining the sprayed water from the wash tub after the sprayed water moves through the clothes during said spraying fresh water, so that none of the sprayed water is recirculated; terminating spraying into the basket; and driving the basket at a high speed."

Neither Van Newenhizen et al. nor Hardaway et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 10. More specifically, neither Van Newenhizen et al. nor Hardaway et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest spraying fresh water into the basket and continuously draining the sprayed water from the wash tub after the sprayed water moves through the clothes during the spraying fresh water step, so that none of the sprayed water is recirculated. Rather, both Van Newenhizen et al. and Hardaway et al. describe rinse cycles wherein fresh water is introduced into the washer at the start of the rinse cycle and then recirculated and reused during recirculation loops in the rinse cycle. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 10 is submitted to be patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. or Hardaway et al.

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Claim 13 depends from independent Claim 10. When the recitations of Claim 13 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 10, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 13 likewise is patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. or Hardaway et al.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the §103 rejection of Claims 6, 7, and 13 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 3, 12, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Newenhizen al. or Hardaway et al. in view of Matsumoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,768,730) is respectfully traversed.

Van Newenhizen et al. and Hardaway et al. are described above. Matsumoto et al. describe a drum type washing machine including a drum (2) that is rotatably supported in a water tank (3), a drive unit (4) for rotating the drum, and a plurality of injection nozzles (5) for injecting wash or rinse liquid into the drum. The nozzles are operated by an injection unit (6) that includes a circulating pipe (31) and an air intake pipe (48). Air is mixed with cleaning liquid to create a pulsed injection during the wash cycle. Matsumoto et al. do not give a detailed example of a rinse step. Reference is made to a rinse step including "an operation identical to that in the washing step"

Applicant respectfully submits that the Section 103 rejection of the presently pending claims is not a proper rejection. Obviousness cannot be established by merely suggesting that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Van Newenhizen or Hardaway according to the teachings of Matsumoto. More specifically, as is well established, obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the cited art to produce the claimed invention absent some teaching, suggestion, or incentive supporting the combination. None of Van Newenhizen, Hardaway or Matsumoto, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest the claimed combination. Rather, the present Section 103 rejection appears

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to be based on a combination of teachings selected from multiple patents in an attempt to arrive at the claimed invention. Specifically, Van Newenhizen and Hardaway are cited for teaching spray rinse cycles, and Matsumoto is cited for its teaching of using air to create a pulse effect in a nozzle. Since there is no teaching or suggestion in the cited art of the claimed combination, the Section 103 rejection appears to be based on a hindsight reconstruction in which isolated disclosures have been picked and chosen in an attempt to deprecate the present invention. Of course, such a combination is impermissible, and for this reason alone, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 3, 12, and 16 be withdrawn.

As the Federal Circuit has recognized, obviousness is not established merely by combining references having different individual elements of pending claims. *Ex parte Levengood*, 28 U.S.P.Q.2d 1300 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1993). MPEP 2143.01. Rather, there must be some suggestion, outside of Applicants' disclosure, in the prior art to combine such references, and a reasonable expectation of success must be both found in the prior art, and not based on Applicants' disclosure. *In re Vaeck*, 20 U.S.P.Q.2d 1436 (Fed. Cir. 1991). In the present case, neither a suggestion nor motivation to combine the prior art disclosures, nor any reasonable expectation of success has been shown.

To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). In the present case, Van Newenhizen or Hardaway, even if combined with Matsumoto, fail to teach all of the limitations of the presently pending claims. Specifically, none of Van Newenhizen, Hardaway, or Matsumoto describe rinsing using only fresh water and continuously draining the sprayed water so that none of the sprayed water can be recirculated.

Claim 3 depends from Claim 1 which recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable basket within the wash

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tub, the rotatable basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and a water spraying device, the method including "rotating the basket at a first rate of rotation; spraying a predetermined quantity of fresh water into the basket while the basket is rotating at the first rate; continuously draining the sprayed water from the wash tub after the sprayed water moves through the clothes during said spraying a predetermined quantity of fresh water, so that none of the sprayed water is recirculated; and rotating the basket at a second rate of rotation, the second rate of rotation greater than the first rate of rotation".

None of Van Newenhizen et al., Hardaway et al., nor Matsumoto et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, none of Van Newenhizen et al., Hardaway et al., nor Matsumoto et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest spraying a predetermined quantity of fresh water into the basket while the basket is rotating at the first rate, and continuously draining the sprayed water from the wash tub after the sprayed water moves through the clothes during the spraying step, so that none of the sprayed water is recirculated. Rather, both Van Newenhizen et al. and Hardaway et al. describe rinse cycles wherein fresh water is introduced into the washer at the start of the rinse cycle and then recirculated and reused during recirculation loops in the rinse cycle. Matsumoto et al. give no detailed example of a rinse cycle. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. or Hardaway et al. in view of Matsumoto et al.

Claim 3 depends from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claim 3 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 3 likewise is patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. or Hardaway et al. in view of Matsumoto et al.

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Claim 12 depends from Claim 10 which recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable basket within the wash tub, the rotatable basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and the rotatable basket drivingly engaged to a multi-speed drive system, and a spraying device, the method including "driving the basket at a low speed; spraying fresh water into the basket; continuously draining the sprayed water from the wash tub after the sprayed water moves through the clothes during said spraying fresh water, so that none of the sprayed water is recirculated; terminating spraying into the basket; and driving the basket at a high speed."

None of Van Newenhizen et al., Hardaway et al., nor Matsumoto et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 10. More specifically, none of Van Newenhizen et al., Hardaway et al., nor Matsumoto et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest spraying fresh water into the basket and continuously draining the sprayed water from the wash tub after the sprayed water moves through the clothes during the spraying fresh water step, so that none of the sprayed water is recirculated. Rather, both Van Newenhizen et al. and Hardaway et al. describe rinse cycles wherein fresh water is introduced into the washer at the start of the rinse cycle and then recirculated and reused during recirculation loops in the rinse cycle. Mastumoto et al. give no detailed example of a rinse cycle. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 10 is submitted to be patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. or Hardaway et al. in view of Matsumoto et al.

Claim 12 depends from independent Claim 10. When the recitations of Claim 12 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 10, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 12 likewise is patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. or Hardaway et al. in view of Mastumoto et al.

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Claim 16 depends from Claim 15 which recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable clothes basket within the wash tub, the rotatable clothes basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and the rotatable clothes basket drivingly engaged to a multi-speed drive system, a spraying device, and a drain assembly, the method including "rotating the basket at a low speed with the drive system; spraying fresh water into the basket with the spraying device; saturating clothes in the basket; continuing to spray fresh water into the basket after the clothes are saturated until a predetermined quantity of water has been sprayed; continuously draining the sprayed water from the wash tub after the sprayed water moves through the clothes during said spraying, said saturating, and said continuing to spray steps, so that none of the sprayed water is recirculated; terminating spraying into the basket; and rotating the basket at a high speed with the drive system".

None of Van Newenhizen et al., Hardaway et al., nor Matsumoto et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 15. More specifically, none of Van Newenhizen et al., Hardaway et al., nor Matsumoto et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest spraying fresh water into the basket, saturating the clothes, continuing to spray fresh water into the basket after the clothes are saturated, and continuously draining the sprayed water from the wash tub after the sprayed water moves through the clothes during the spraying, the saturating, and the continuing to spray steps, so that none of the sprayed water is recirculated. Rather, both Van Newenhizen et al. and Hardaway et al. describe rinse cycles wherein fresh water is introduced into the washer at the start of the rinse cycle and then recirculated and reused during recirculation loops in the rinse cycle. Matsumoto et al. give no detailed example of a rinse cycle. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 15 is submitted to be patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. or Hardaway et al. in view of Matsumoto et al.

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Claim 16 depends from independent Claim 15. When the recitations of Claim 16 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 15, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 16 likewise is patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. or Hardaway et al. in view of Matsumoto et al.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the §103 rejection of Claims 3, 12, and 16 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Newenhizen al. or Hardaway et al. in view of Badger et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,737,790) is respectfully traversed.

Van Newenhizen al. or Hardaway et al. are described above. Badger et al. describe washing machine (1) having a cabinet (2), a hinged lid (3), and a control panel (4). Hot and cold water valves (13) and (14) provide for the delivery of water to a spray nozzle at the upper rim of a spin tub (6) positioned within a stationary water container (5). A spray rinse cycle is described wherein a first "sense rinse" is performed and a volume of water required to saturate the clothes is determined. Multiple subsequent rinse phases are then performed using a proportion of the "sense rinse" water volume. Water is centrifugally extracted between the rinse phases.

Claims 8 and 9 depend from Claim 1 which recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable basket within the wash tub, the rotatable basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and a water spraying device, the method including "rotating the basket at a first rate of rotation; spraying a predetermined quantity of fresh water into the basket while the basket is rotating at the first rate; continuously draining the sprayed water from the wash tub after the sprayed water moves through the clothes during said spraying a predetermined quantity of fresh water, so that none of the sprayed water is

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recirculated; and rotating the basket at a second rate of rotation, the second rate of rotation greater than the first rate of rotation”.

None of Van Newenhizen et al., Hardaway et al., nor Badger et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, none of Van Newenhizen et al., Hardaway et al., nor Badger et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest spraying a predetermined quantity of fresh water into the basket while the basket is rotating at the first rate, and continuously draining the sprayed water from the wash tub after the sprayed water moves through the clothes during the spraying step, so that none of the sprayed water is recirculated. Rather, both Van Newenhizen et al. and Hardaway et al. describe rinse cycles wherein fresh water is introduced into the washer at the start of the rinse cycle and then recirculated and reused during recirculation loops in the rinse cycle. Badger et al. describe a rinse cycle including a number of rinse phases wherein water is centrifugally extracted between the rinse phases. No mention is made of continuously draining sprayed water during the rinse phases. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. or Hardaway et al. in view of Badger et al.

Claims 8 and 9 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 8 and 9 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 8 and 9 likewise are patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. or Hardaway et al. in view of Badger et al.

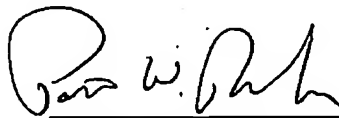
For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the §103 rejection of Claims 8 and 9 be withdrawn.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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